

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

By the present Amendment a new Abstract believed to be more proper format under United States practice is submitted.

The present response is submitted to place the application in condition for allowance based on the indication of allowable subject matter in the outstanding Office Action. More specifically, in the outstanding Office Action claims 10-13 were noted as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of their based claims and any intervening claims. Claims 6-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and claims 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Ito et al.

By the present response claims 6-9 are herein canceled without prejudice and each of claims 10-13 is rewritten in independent form. Further, each of claims 10-13 now refers to a “reinforcing member”, to address the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, along the lines suggested in paragraph 4 of the Office Action.

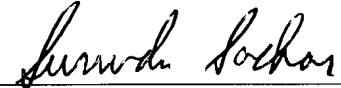
Further, each of claims 10-13 now clarifies the specific claim ranges of the fibrous filler. The amended language is believed to be more grammatically correct and to be more consistent with the specification for example at page 17, line 3.

Thereby, by the present response applicants respectfully submit each of claims 10-13 as currently written is allowable.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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